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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 64 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor Tennessee's World War I Veterans
upon the 81st Anniversary of the conclusion of
the war and to designate 1999 as "World War I
Veterans Appreciation Year".

WHEREAS, the United States' involvement in World War I extended from April 6, 1917
to November 11, 1918; and

WHEREAS, nearly 100,000 Tennesseans served in military uniform during the "War to
End All Wars"; and

WHEREAS, approximately 3,500 Tennesseans died during World War I, and of that total
more than 1,000 were battle deaths; and

WHEREAS, we owe a great debt of gratitude to those members of the armed forces who
lost their lives in that war, and also to those who served and aided in carrying out their duties to
the ultimate victory; and

WHEREAS, the United States and the Tennessee departments of veterans affairs are
assisting the Republic of France in its effort to bestow the National Order of the Legion of Honor
on surviving members of the U.S. armed forces who fought on French soil during World War I;
and

WHEREAS, the National Order of the Legion of Honor is France's highest honor—
instituted in 1802 by the First Consul Napoleon Bonaparte; and

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WHEREAS, to date, the Legion of Honor has been bestowed upon Tennesseans Harvel C. Edwards, 101, of Lawrence County; Samuel W. Robinson, 103, of Montgomery County; Thomas F. Brice, 103, of Anderson County; George W. Deckard, 102, of Macon County; and Jessie I. Hughes, 102, of Robertson County; and

WHEREAS, John G. Painter, 110, of Wilson County has been designated by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs as Tennessee's oldest known surviving World War I veteran; and

WHEREAS, French Consul General, Monsieur Jean-Paul Monchau, acting on behalf of French President, Monsieur Jacques Chirac, is scheduled to present the Legion of Honor to Mr. John G. Painter on April 27, 1999; and

WHEREAS, this presentation ceremony is a continuation of more than two centuries of mutual support and cooperation between our two great countries; and

WHEREAS, it is now highly appropriate that the General Assembly calls upon all Tennessee citizens to pay homage to its surviving World War I veterans and to recognize John G. Painter as Tennessee's oldest surviving veteran; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the World War I Veterans of our state and all of the members of this great nation's armed forces who served valiantly in the First World War which concluded more than eighty years ago on November 11, 1918.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we designate the year 1999 as "World War I Veterans Appreciation Year", in honor of the thousands of military personnel who dedicated themselves to the preservation of peace and liberty worldwide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby proclaim April 27, 1999 as World War I Veterans Appreciation Day and acknowledge John G. Painter as our state's oldest known surviving veteran.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage all Tennesseans to honor these heroes at a special ceremony to be held on that day at 11:00 a.m. in the Old Supreme Court Chambers on the First Floor of the State Capitol.